

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial comment on the labor movement in the industry, politics, and social and economic information of interest to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1968

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1948

GEORGE HENRY, Secretary-Treasurer

VOL. 38, NO. 50

ILO Body Decides to Administer Program To Promote Use of World's Manpower

Geneva, Switzerland.—The 197th session of the governing body of the International Labor Organization concluded here today after voting to undertake for the first time the administration of an important United Nations program at the operational level.

The governing body gave a \$12.5 million approval to a program for the first time to administer the program at the operational level.

The plan makes a new department for the ILO which now has continued to function in Geneva, Switzerland, under the name of the International Labor Office.

The new manpower program was approved in the governing body of the ILO by a vote of 21 to 1. The vote was taken after a long and heated discussion.

ILO, he said, must take the leadership in getting the job done. It must make the work from the point of view of technical training. The program will be to help countries in need of manpower throughout the world. The program must be undertaken as an international effort.

Seafarers' Union to Fight Plan to Use Foreign Ships

By ARNOLD REICHMAN

New York.—The Seafarers International Union has warned that it will fight to prevent the United States Maritime Administration from using foreign ships to transport U. S. mail.

The ultimatum was delivered by Paul Hall, secretary-treasurer of the S. I. U., to the Maritime Administration in New York City today. The ultimatum was delivered to the Maritime Administration in New York City today.

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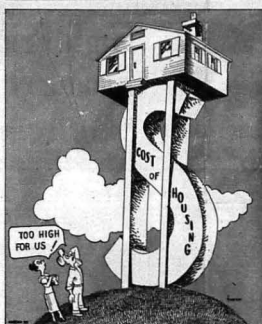
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Importation of Farm Labor Assailed; Mitchell Sees No Need For 1949 Program

Washington.—M. I. Mitchell, president of the AFL's National Farm Labor Union, assailed the importation of foreign workers for employment on farms in the United States.

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Government Backs AFM Pact; Ban on Record Making Lifted

Green Urges Broader Social Security With Higher Benefits to Offset Prices

New York.—AFL President William Green called for extension of the social security system to include all workers and adjustments of benefits to meet the needs of the workers.

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New Petriflo Contract Held In Accord With T-H Law

Washington.—The Federal government approved recent contracts negotiated by the American Petroleum Institute, the Petroleum Producers, and the Petroleum Refiners.

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FLIGHT ENGINEERS ELECT OFFICERS AT MEETING

New York.—At the recent convention of the newly chartered AFL union, the Flight Engineers' International, the officers were elected. The officers were elected.

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AFL Unions Urged to Send CARE Packages to Europe

New York.—The Russian blockade of Berlin is not thwarting AFL efforts to send CARE packages to Europe. The AFL is urging its member unions to send CARE packages to Europe.

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Over 50% of Employers in Alaska Found To Be Violating Wage-Hour Law

Washington.—The special program of the San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, and Seattle field offices worked out by the Department of Labor to enforce the Fair Labor Standards Act in Alaska has resulted in violations being uncovered in over 50 percent of the employers.

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ORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Educational, Political Drives Planned by LLPE Committee

Safety Record In Industry Improving, Injury Rate At New Low In September

Washington.—Work in the nation's manufacturing industries was safer in 1948 than a year ago, according to reports released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The BLS said that disabling work injuries per 1,000,000 employe-hours of work in 1948 were 3.7, down from 4.0 in 1947. The decrease was attributed to a decline in the number of hours worked by the injured persons, rather than to a change in the level of safety. At current levels, this represents an estimated value of about 600,000—a loss paid partly by employers in the form of workmen's compensation and partly absorbed by the injured workers in the form of reduced wages.

The 30-man steering committee at a meeting here, agreed to

The injury rate of 12.7 in September, however, was the lowest ever recorded. The injury-frequency rate for the third quarter, 12.7, was only slightly above the rate of 12.5 recorded in the second quarter and was considerably below the 16.6 figure reported for the

[illegible]

Number of Housing Starts Drops Again,
Total For November 18% Below Last Year

Washington.—New home construction fell off again Tuesday, according to reports released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics despite the existence of an abnormally large demand for homes.

The BLS survey showed that 65,000

Reporting on the housing picture for the year, the BLS release said:—

“New building totaling 867,500 units for the first 11 months of 1948, showed an increase of 77,300 units, or 10 percent over the same period of 1947.

Therefore, a political educational organization will be formed side by side with the service which will have the direct responsibility for pressing the candidacies of office seekers.

To finance the educational program for the next 14 months, Mr. Keenan said he expected that at least \$650,000

units were started during the year 1947. The number of units was 1,470 or 18 percent below the number of units in 1946. The number of units in 1947 was 1,470 or 18 percent below the number of units in 1946. The number of units in 1947 was 1,470 or 18 percent below the number of units in 1946.

Other housing surveys tell a different story. There is ample evidence to show that sales of high-priced homes are beginning to slacken. The number of permits issued last year was substantially below the return to a seasonal pattern in the home construction industry.

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HIGH-COST HOME SALES

LAGGING, REPORT SAYS

Chicago.—Housing experts here predicted a swing to a buyers' market in the home building industry, according to press reports of a survey conducted throughout the nation.

The prediction was based on the facts that sales of high priced homes have fallen off recently because of lack of buyers. The market for homes costing above \$10,000 has slumped

With demand drying up in the higher priced brackets it is to be expected that the construction industry will shift its emphasis to the building of lower-cost homes. There are no

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house has slackened.

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WILLIAM GREEN, President,
American Federation of Labor.

The Labor Confederation of Costa
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for its prodemocratic and anti-
Communist record.

and income during the period of disability. This, however, is only a fraction of the total cost which will accrue from these injuries. It includes no allowance for the continuing costs of hospitalization, nursing, medicines and permanent impairment, and for the hospital, medical and other costs incidental to treatment of the injured person.

The third quarter, aluminum and products, from 21 to 22.5¢; sawmill, from 19 to 20¢; steel, from 42.5 to 43.5¢; steel barrels, kgs, drums and packages, from 19.5 to 20.5¢; and concrete, approximately 20¢. In the fourth quarter, 1991, in contrast, the integrated steel-and-planting-mills industry showed an increase from 41.5 to 43.5¢; heating, from 20 to 21.5¢; steel products, from 19.5 to 20.5¢; and lumber, shingles and accessories (not classified), from 5.7 to 12.2¢.

Reporting on the housing picture for the year, the BLS release said: "Existing units totaling 7,500 units for the first 11 months of 1948, showed an increase of 77,300 units, or 10 percent over the same period of 1947."

Los Angeles, New York, and Houston led all other cities in the number of local permits issued during the first months of 1948 for new nonfarm uses. In half of the 20 leading cities, the number of permits issued was substantially greater this year than last for the same 11 months.

New York.—Real wages of factory workers in New York State have dropped \$1.07 in a year. According to the State Labor Department, the use of 6.5 percent of living between October 1947, and October 1948, was less than of the 3.9

**AFL, MACHINISTS' UNION
BEGIN UNION CONFERENCES**

Washington.—AFL President William Green said he was "hoping" that the nation's 10 "international" and

The municipal government should be given a reasonable share of the subsidy for low-cost rental housing development, such as prevailing tax exemption.

Federal and state governments could be urged to undertake a comprehensive program, including private construction, to build low-cost rental housing as well as home ownership at "average" cost.

Rehousing should be undertaken in a planned and systematic manner. The municipal government should be given a reasonable share of the subsidy for low-cost rental housing development, such as prevailing tax exemption.

Federal and state governments could be urged to undertake a comprehensive program, including private construction, to build low-cost rental housing as well as home ownership at "average" cost.

Number of Housing Starts
Total For November 1

Washington.—New home construction fell off again November, according to reports released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics despite the existence of an abnormally large demand for homes.

The reason for the decline, as advanced by the bureau, is that the construction industry has returned to the traditional seasonal pattern. No explanation is offered, however, as to why the seasonal pattern should suddenly reassert itself in the face of a continued demand for homes. In 1947, the peak season for homebuilding came during October and November,

Other housing surveys tell a different story. There is ample evidence to show that sales of high-priced homes are beginning to slacken. This may be the real reason for the return to a seasonal pattern in the same construction industry.

Enactment of Long-Range Backed By Americans

Endorsement of the measure was accomplished through the amendment from the floor of a statement calling for a watered-down version of the bill. Leading the fight for the T-E-W

**HIGH-COST HOME SALES
LAGGING, REPORT SAYS**

Chicago. — Housing experts here predicted a swing to a buyers' market in the home building industry, according to press reports of a survey conducted throughout the nation. The prediction was based on the facts that sales of high priced homes have fallen off recently because of

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Change Housing Law Municipal Group

New York.—Real wages of factory workers in New York State have dropped \$1.07 in a year. According to the State Labor Department, the use of 6.5 percent of living in between October 1947, and October 1948, was less than of the 3.9

ment housing into private ownership as soon as individuals were able to buy it.

Also included in the recommendations made by Mr. Edwards was a specific request for \$1,000,000,000 in long-term loans to subsidize low-rent, low-income housing; research into lower-cost housing; loan contracts at low

Other statements of housing policy discussed by the section meeting covered the following points:

- 1. Adequate planning of cities and communities.
- 2. Adequate housing for the war-affected population.
- 3. Adequate housing for the low-income population.
- 4. Adequate housing for the war-affected population.
- 5. Adequate housing for the low-income population.

The city should have the power eminent domain to acquire areas for urban redevelopment at all income levels.

Rehousing should be undertaken where slums are eliminated.

The municipal government should

Washington—AFL President William Green said he was "hopeful" that reunification of the International Association of Machinists with the AFL may be accomplished.

Mr. Green voiced his opinion at the conclusion of the first in a series of

There is a reasonable share of the subsidy lead for low-cost housing development, such as providing tax exemption.

Federal and state government would be urged to undertake a considerable program, including private enterprise, to extend to the public the available low-cost rental housing as well as home ownership at "average" cost levels.

meetings between committees of the AFL and the IAM who are exploring the possibilities of reaching a settlement of the problems which led to the withdrawal of the machinists several years ago.

"There is a manifest desire on the part of both sides to end the dissension of the machinists," said Mr. Green. "That much has been accomplished."